

So with that, I rise to oppose the advancement of LR 6 despite the fact I think the amendments have improved the bill. I think the current level of the court ruling, the number of signatures, is one that we can live with and I think...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...do well by. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I haven't spoken on this issue at all up until this point. We're going to advance a bill that is based, that the numbers are based on how many people voted for the Governor in the last gubernatorial election. I have a problem with that for this reason. If we have a lackluster campaign that the outcome is fairly well-known combined with some very poor weather on election day when we're electing a Governor, I think our turnout could be very low and, therefore, the numbers necessary for a petition drive would be depressed considerably. I feel fairly strongly that our base numbers should be based on numbers of registered voters defined at a particular time. The people that register to vote are stating their intent to participate in election processes. They are interested or they wouldn't be registering to vote and would be a much more stable, predictable number of signatures required. Therefore, at this point I am going to pass on the advancement of this bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I was not exactly sure how I was going to vote on this issue but at this time I am in opposition to LR 6. Most of the conversation, that I've heard anyway, I think centered on issues before the voters. I think another thing we have to look at, I don't know if it's been brought up or not, maybe Senator Schmek could tell me, is that candidates are also placed on ballot by initiative. I went in on initiative in 1988 and through the process of the circulation process I did garner enough votes to be placed, to be advanced to general in November. However, at that time petitioners could not be paid, we could not cross county lines. I have three counties. We had to have registered voters for each county and we kept careful track of them, they were all volunteers at that time, they could not have paid